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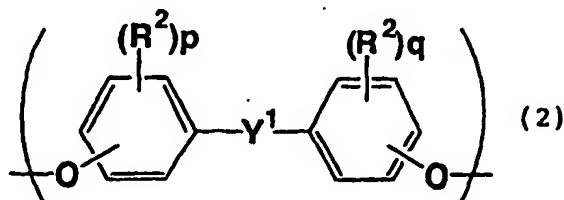
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(54) **RESIN COMPOSITION AND ARTICLES MOLDED THEREFROM**

(57) According to the present invention, a resin composition having a high refractive index and low dispersion characteristics is provided. THE resin composition comprises a carbonate residue, a phosphonic acid residue represented by the following structural formula (1), and a dihydric phenol residue represented by the following structural formula (2), wherein the mol fractions of the phosphonic acid residue and the carbonate residue satisfy equation (3).



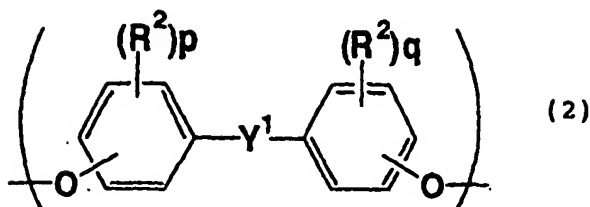
[In structural formula (1), R¹ represents an organic group, X¹ represents oxygen, sulfur or selenium, and the resin composition may contain two or more different phosphonic acid residues having different R¹ or X¹. In structural formula (2), R² is independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydrocarbyl group and a nitro group, and p and q are integers such that p+q=0 to 8, and the hydrocarbyl group is selected from the group consisting of an aliphatic group having 1 - 20 carbon atoms, and an aromatic group. Y¹ is selected from the group

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consisting of a single bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, an alkylene group, an alkylidene group, a cycloalkylene group, a cycloalkylidene group, a halo-substituted alkylene group, a halo-substituted alkylidene group, a phenylalkylidene group, a carbonyl group, a sulfone group, an aliphatic phosphine oxide group, an aromatic phosphine oxide group, an alkylsilane group, a dialkylsilane group, and a fluorene group. The resin composition may contain two or more different dihydric phenol residues having different R² or Y¹.]

$$1 > (a)/((a) + (b)) \geq 0.5 \quad (3)$$

[In equation (3), (a) represents the number of moles of the phosphonic acid residues, and (b) represents the number of moles of the carbonate residues.]



10 [In structural formula (1), R1 represents an organic group, X1 represents oxygen, sulfur or selenium, and the resin composition may contain two or more different phosphonic acid residues having different R1 or X1. In structural formula (2), R2 is independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydrocarbyl group and a nitro group, p and q are integers such that p+q=0 to 8, and the hydrocarbyl group is selected from the group consisting of an aliphatic group having 1 - 20 carbon atoms, and an aromatic group. Y1 is selected from the group consisting of a single bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, an alkylene group, an alkylidene group, a cycloalkylene group, a cycloalkylidene group, a halo-substituted alkylene group, a halo-substituted alkylidene group, a phenylalkylidene group, a carbonyl group, a sulfone group, an aliphatic phosphine oxide group, an aromatic phosphine oxide group, an alkylsilane group, a dialkylsilane group, and a fluorene group. The resin composition may contain two or more different dihydric phenol residues having different R2 or Y1.]

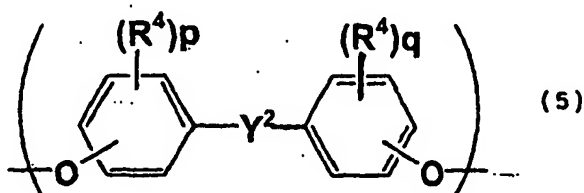
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$$1 > (a)/((a) + (b)) \geq 0.5 \quad (3)$$

25 [In equation (3), (a) represents the number of moles of the phosphonic acid residues, and (b) represents the number of moles of the carbonate residues.]

[0007] According to the present invention, a resin composition which comprises a phosphonic acid residue represented by the following structural formula (4), and a dihydric phenol residue represented by the following structural formula (5) is also provided.



50 [In structural formula (4), R3 represents an organic group, X2 represents sulfur or selenium, and the resin composition may contain two or more different phosphonic acid residues having different R3 or X2. In structural formula (5), R4 is independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydrocarbyl group and a nitro group, and p and q are integers such that p+q=0 to 8, and the hydrocarbyl group is selected from the group consisting of an aliphatic group having 1 - 20 carbon atoms, and an aromatic group. Y2 is selected from the group consisting of a single bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, an alkylene group, an alkylidene group, a cycloalkylene group, a cycloalkylidene group, a halo-substituted alkylene group, a halo-substituted alkylidene group, a phenylalkylidene group, a carbonyl group, a sulfone group, an aliphatic phosphine oxide group, an aromatic phosphine oxide group, an alkylsilane group, a dialkylsilane group, and a fluorene group. The resin composition may contain two or more different dihydric phenol residues having different R4 or Y2.]

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Best Mode for Carrying Out the Invention

[0008] As a result of extensive examination in search of a thermoplastic resin having a high refractive index and low dispersion, the present inventors have found that a colorless and transparent thermoplastic resin having a high refractive index and low dispersion can be obtained by introducing a structure having a pentavalent phosphorus atom, in particular a phosphonic acid structure, into the main chain of a polymer. Equation (3) represents the copolymerization fraction of the phosphonic acid residue, wherein (a) represents the number of moles of the phosphonic acid residue represented by structural formula (1), and (b) represents the number of moles of the carbonate residue. When the mol fraction of the phosphonic acid residue represented by formula (1) is below 0.5, the polymer does not show a high refractive index, thereby the advantages of the present invention are barely attained. A mol fraction of the phosphonic acid residue within the range of $\{(a)/\{(a)+(b)\}\} \geq 0.75$ is preferred.

Abbe numbers are generally employed as an index to show the level of optical dispersion of an optical material and calculated according to the following equation (6).

$$\text{Abbe number (vd)} = (n_d - 1) / (n_f - n_c) \quad (6)$$

Wherein, n_d represents the d-line refractive index (wavelength: 587.6 nm), n_f represents the f-line refractive index (wavelength: 656.3 nm), and n_c represents the c-line refractive index (wavelength: 486.1 nm).

[0009] Therefore, higher Abbe numbers are indicative of lower dispersion.

[0010] Various resins having phosphorus-type functional groups are known; particularly, the resins containing phosphonic acid ester groups in the main chain are referred to as polyphosphonates (K.S. Kim, J. Appl. Polym. Sci., **28**, 1119 (1983); Y. Imai et al, Makromol. Chem., Rapid Commun., **1**, 419 (1980); USP. No. 3719727), and have been actively studied in view of their flame retardant properties. As no detailed findings regarding the physical properties of these known polyphosphonate resins including the optical characteristics and dynamic characteristics were available, the present inventors have synthesized them and conducted evaluations of their physical properties. As a result, those known polyphosphonate resins were found to have insufficient dynamic characteristics, unsatisfactory refractive indices or optical dispersion characteristics, due to their low molecular weights. As a result of extensive studies with the objective of improving such inferior characteristics, the present inventors achieved this invention. The present inventors found that a molded product containing the resin of the present invention in the form of a gut, plate or film, has excellent flame resistance as well.

[0011] In addition to that, the present inventors found that the resin of the present invention shows excellent birefringence/wavelength dispersion characteristics when it is formed into an optically anisotropic mold for use as an optical retardation film (or an optical retardation plate, a $\lambda/4$ plate, or a circularly polarizing plate). When light is transmitted through an optically anisotropic product, such as a uniaxially stretched film, of a typical resin, the shorter the wavelength of the light is, the greater the birefringence becomes, and the degree of the increase is greater in a region of short wavelength. For use as an optical retardation film, a resin satisfying the following conditions with regard to the relation between the birefringence and the wavelength is ideal from the optical point of view. That is,

- 1) the resin in the form of a film having a thickness of up to a few hundred microns has a satisfactory level of birefringence, and
- 2) the change in the birefringence is constant regardless of the wavelength, i.e. the relation between the birefringence and the wavelength is proportional (linear relationship).

[0012] A combination of two kinds of optically anisotropic films which satisfy these conditions and have different birefringence/wavelength dispersion characteristics makes an ideal optical retardation film. The present inventors have found that an optically anisotropic product obtained by stretching a film produced from the resin of the present invention shows a more linear birefringence/wavelength relation than conventional resins, and that an optical retardation film having excellent wavelength dispersion characteristics can be obtained by combining the stretched film of the present invention with an optically anisotropic film of a conventional polyalkane resin.

[0013] Examples of substituents R1 or R3 on the phosphorus atom of a compound represented by the above-mentioned structural formula (1) or (4) include groups such as phenyl, halo-substituted phenyl, methoxy phenyl, ethoxy phenyl, ethyl, isopropyl, cyclohexyl, vinyl, allyl, benzyl, aminoalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, halo-substituted alkyl, alkylsulfide and the like. Examples of the phosphonic acid constituting the phosphonic acid residue represented by structural formula (1) include methyl phosphonic acid, ethyl phosphonic acid, n-propyl phosphonic acid, isopropyl phosphonic acid, n-butyl phosphonic acid, isobutyl phosphonic acid, t-butyl phosphonic acid, n-pentyl phosphonic acid, neopentyl phosphonic acid, cyclohexyl phosphonic acid, benzyl phosphonic acid, chloromethyl phosphonic acid, dichloromethyl phosphonic acid, bromomethyl phosphonic acid, dibromomethyl phosphonic acid, 2-chloroethyl phosphonic acid,

1,2-dichloroethyl phosphonic acid, 2-bromoethyl phosphonic acid, 1,2-dibromoethyl phosphonic acid, 3-chloropropyl phosphonic acid, 2,3-dichloropropyl phosphonic acid, 3-bromopropyl phosphonic acid, 2,3-dibromopropyl phosphonic acid, 2-chloro-1-methylethyl phosphonic acid, 1,2-dichloro-1-methylethyl phosphonic acid, 2-bromo-1-methylethyl phosphonic acid, 1,2-dibromo-1-methylethyl phosphonic acid, 4-chlorobutyl phosphonic acid, 3,4-dichlorobutyl phosphonic acid, 4-bromobutyl phosphonic acid, 3,4-dibromobutyl phosphonic acid, 3-chloro-1-methylpropyl phosphonic acid, 2,3-dichloro-1-methylpropyl phosphonic acid, 3-bromo-1-methylpropyl phosphonic acid, 2,3-dibromo-1-methyl phosphonic acid, 1-chloromethylpropyl phosphonic acid, 1-chloro-1-chloromethylpropyl phosphonic acid, 1-bromomethylpropyl phosphonic acid, 1-bromo-1-bromomethylpropyl phosphonic acid, 5-chloropentyl phosphonic acid, 4,5-dichloropentyl phosphonic acid, 5-bromopentyl phosphonic acid, 4,5-dibromopentyl phosphonic acid, 1-hydroxymethyl phosphonic acid, 2-hydroxyethyl phosphonic acid, 3-hydroxypropyl phosphonic acid, 4-hydroxybutyl phosphonic acid, 5-hydroxypentyl phosphonic acid, 1-aminomethyl phosphonic acid, 2-aminoethyl phosphonic acid, 3-aminopropyl phosphonic acid, 4-aminobutyl phosphonic acid, 5-aminopentyl phosphonic acid, methylthiomethyl phosphonic acid, methylthioethyl phosphonic acid, methylthiopropyl phosphonic acid, methylthiobutyl phosphonic acid, ethylthiomethyl phosphonic acid, ethylthioethyl phosphonic acid, ethylthiopropyl phosphonic acid, propylthiomethyl phosphonic acid, propylthioethyl phosphonic acid, butylthiomethyl phosphonic acid, phenyl phosphonic acid, 4-chlorophenyl phosphonic acid, 3,4-dichlorophenyl phosphonic acid, 3,5-dichlorophenyl phosphonic acid, 4-bromophenyl phosphonic acid, 3,4-bromophenyl phosphonic acid, 3,5-bromophenyl phosphonic acid, 4-methoxyphenyl phosphonic acid, 3,4-dimethoxyphenyl phosphonic acid, 1-naphthyl phosphonic acid, 2-naphthyl phosphonic acid, 5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2-naphthyl phosphonic acid, 5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-1-naphthyl phosphonic acid, benzyl phosphonic acid, 4-bromophenylmethyl phosphonic acid, 3,4-dibromophenylmethyl phosphonic acid, 3,5-dibromophenylmethyl phosphonic acid, 2-phenylethyl phosphonic acid, 2-(4-bromophenyl)ethyl phosphonic acid, 2-(3,4-dibromophenyl)ethyl phosphonic acid, 2-(3,5-dibromophenyl)ethyl phosphonic acid, 3-phenylpropyl phosphonic acid, 3-(4-bromophenyl)propyl phosphonic acid, 3-(3,4-dibromophenyl)propyl phosphonic acid, 3-(3,5-dibromophenyl)propyl phosphonic acid, 4-phenylbutyl phosphonic acid, 4-(4-bromophenyl)butyl phosphonic acid, 4-(3,4-dibromophenyl)butyl phosphonic acid, 4-(3,5-dibromophenyl)butyl phosphonic acid, 2-pyridyl phosphonic acid, 3-pyridyl phosphonic acid, 4-pyridyl phosphonic acid, 1-pyrrolidinomethyl phosphonic acid, 1-pyrrolidinoethyl phosphonic acid, 1-pyrrolidinopropyl phosphonic acid, 1-pyrrolidinobutyl phosphonic acid, pyrrole-1-phosphonic acid, pyrrole-2-phosphonic acid, pyrrole-3-phosphonic acid, thiophene-2-phosphonic acid, thiophene-3-phosphonic acid, dithian-2-phosphonic acid, trithian-2-phosphonic acid, furan-2-phosphonic acid, furan-3-phosphonic acid, vinyl phosphonic acid, allyl phosphonic acid and the corresponding thiophosphonic acids wherein the oxygen atom in the phosphonic acid bonded to the phosphorus atom by a double bond is replaced with a sulfur atom. These can be used alone or in admixture of two or more kinds. These phosphonic acids may be phosphonic acid derivatives such as an acid chloride, ester, or amide.

[0014] These phosphonic acid residues may be partly replaced with phosphonite residues which are corresponding trivalent phosphorus functional groups. Such replacement can impart oxidation resistance to the resin; however, the substitution ratio is preferably up to 50 %, more preferably up to 25%, and most preferably up to 10 % from the viewpoint of the stability of characteristics such as optical characteristics.

[0015] Examples of dihydric phenols constituting the dihydric phenol residues represented by structural formula (2) or (5) include 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)methane, 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethane, 1,1-bis(4-methyl-2-hydroxyphenyl)methane, 1,1-bis(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methane, 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-4-methylpentane, 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)cyclohexane, 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)cycloheptane, 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)cyclooctane, 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)cyclodecane, 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)cyclododecane, 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)propane, 2,2-bis(3-methyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propane, 2,2-bis(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propane, 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1-phenylethane, 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-ethylhexane, 2,2-bis(3-phenyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propane, 1,1-bis(3-methyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methane, 4,4'-biphenol, 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)butane, 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-methylpropane, 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1-phenylmethane, 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)octane, 1,1-bis(3-methyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)cyclohexane, 2,2-bis(3-allyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propane, 2,2-bis(3-isopropyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propane, 2,2-bis(3-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propane, 2,2-bis(3-sec-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propane, bisphenol floren, 1,1-bis(2-methyl-4-hydroxy-5-tert-butylphenyl)-2-methylpropane, 4,4'-[1,4-phenylene-bis(2-propylidene)]-bis(2-methylphenol), 1,1-bis(3-phenyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)cyclohexane, 4,4'-dihydroxyphenylether, 1,1-bis(2-hydroxyphenyl)methane, 2,4'-methylenebisphenol, 1,1-bis(3-methyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methane, 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)propane, 1,1-bis(2-hydroxy-5-methylphenyl)ethane, 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-3-methylbutane, 1,1-bis(2-hydroxy-3,5-dimethylphenyl)methane, 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)cyclopentane, 1,1-bis(3-methyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)cyclopentane, 3,3-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)pentane, 3,3-bis(3-methyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)pentane, 3,3-bis(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)pentane, 2,2-bis(2-hydroxy-3,5-dimethylphenyl)propane, 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)nonane, 1,1-bis(3-methyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-1-phenylethane, 1,1-bis(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)cyclohexane, 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)decane, 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)decane, 1,1-bis(2-hydroxy-3-tert-butyl-5-methylphenyl)methane, 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)diphenylmethane, terpenediphenol, 1,1-bis(3-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)cyclohexane, 1,1-bis(2-methyl-4-hydroxy-5-tert-butylphenyl)-2-methylpropane, 2,2-bis(3-cyclohexyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propane, 1,1-bis(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methane,

1,1-bis(3,5-disec-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methane, 1,1-bis(3-cyclohexyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)cyclohexane, 1,1-bis(2-hydroxy-3,5-di-tert-butylphenyl)ethane, 1,1-bis(3-nonyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methane, 2,2-bis(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propane, 1,1-bis(2-hydroxy-3,5-di-tert-butyl-6-methylphenyl)methane, 1,1-bis(3-phenyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-1-phenylethane, 4,4-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)pentanoic acid, bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)acetic butyl ester, 1,1-bis(3-fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)methane, 1,1-bis(2-hydroxy-5-fluorophenyl)methane, 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropane, 2,2-bis(3-fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)propane, 1,1-bis(3-fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-1-phenylmethane, 1,1-bis(3-fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-1-(p-fluorophenyl)methane, 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1-(p-fluorophenyl)methane, 2,2-bis(3-chloro-4-hydroxy-5-methylphenyl)propane, 2,2-bis(3,5-dichloro-4-hydroxyphenyl)propane, 2,2-bis(3-chloro-4-hydroxyphenyl)propane, 1,1-bis(3,5-dibromo-4-hydroxyphenyl)methane, 2,2-bis(3,5-dibromo-4-hydroxyphenyl)propane, 2,2-bis(3-nitro-4-hydroxyphenyl)propane, 3,3'-dimethyl-4,4'-biphenol, 3,3',5,5'-tetramethyl-4,4'-biphenol, 3,3',5,5'-tetra-tert-butyl-4,4'-biphenol, bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)ketone, 3,3'-difluoro-4,4'-biphenol, 3,3',5,5'-tetrafluoro-4,4'-biphenol, bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)dimethylsilane, bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)sulfone, bis(3-methyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)sulfone, bis(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)sulfone, bis(3,5-dibromo-4-hydroxyphenyl)sulfone, bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)thioether, bis(3-methyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)ether, bis(3-methyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)thioether, bis(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)ether, bis(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)thioether, 1,1-bis(2,3,5-trimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-1-phenylmethane, 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)dodecane, 2,2-bis(3-methyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)dodecane, 2,2-bis(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)dodecane, 1,1-bis(3-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-1-phenylethane, 1,1-bis(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-1-phenylethane, 1,1-bis(2-methyl-4-hydroxy-5-cyclohexylphenyl)-2-methylpropane, 1,1-bis(2-hydroxy-3,5-di-tert-butylphenyl)ethane, 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)propanoic acid methyl ester, 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)propanoic acid ethyl ester, isatin bisphenol, isatin bisresol, 2,2',3,3',5,5'-hexamethyl-4,4'-biphenol, bis(2-hydroxyphenyl)methane, 2,4'-methylenebisphenol, 1,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethane, 2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-2-(2-hydroxyphenyl)propane, bis(2-hydroxy-3-allylphenyl)methane, 1,1-bis(2-hydroxy-3,5-dimethylphenyl)-2-methylpropane, 1,1-bis(2-hydroxy-5-tert-butylphenyl)ethane, bis(2-hydroxy-5-phenylphenyl)methane, 1,1-bis(2-methyl-4-hydroxy-5-tert-butylphenyl)butane, bis(2-methyl-4-hydroxy-5-cyclohexylphenyl)methane, 2,2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)pentadecane, 2,2-bis(3-methyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)pentadecane, 2,2-bis(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)pentadecane, 1,2-bis(3,5-di-tert-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)ethane, bis(2-hydroxy-3,5-di-tert-butylphenyl)methane, 2,2-bis(3-styryl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propane, 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1-(p-nitrophenyl)ethane, bis(3,5-difluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)methane, bis(3,5-difluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-1-phenylmethane, bis(3,5-difluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)diphenylmethane, bis(3-fluoro-4-hydroxyphenyl)diphenylmethane, 2,2-bis(3-chloro-4-hydroxyphenyl)propane, 3,3',5,5'-tetra-tert-butyl-2,2'-biphenol, 2,2'-diallyl-4,4'-biphenol, 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-3,3,5-trimethyl-cyclohexane, 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-3,3,5,5-tetramethyl-cyclohexane, 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-3,3,4-trimethyl-cyclohexane, 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-3,3-dimethyl-5-ethyl-cyclohexane, 1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-3,3,5-trimethyl-cyclopentane, 1,1-bis(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-3,3,5-trimethyl-cyclohexane, 1,1-bis(3,5-diphenyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-3,3,5-trimethyl-cyclohexane, 1,1-bis(3-methyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-3,3,5-trimethyl-cyclohexane, 1,1-bis(3-phenyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)-3,3,5-trimethyl-cyclohexane, 1,1-bis(3,5-dichloro-4-hydroxyphenyl)-3,3,5-trimethyl-cyclohexane, 9,9-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)fluorene, 9,9-bis(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)fluorene, 1,1-bis(3,5-dibromo-4-hydroxyphenyl)-3,3,5-trimethyl-cyclohexane, α,α -bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,4-diisopropylbenzene and the like and these can be used alone or in admixture of two or more kinds. These dihydric phenols can be employed according to the properties of the desired polymer.

[0016] Dihydroxybenzene can be employed in such an amount that does not mar the effect of the present invention and examples of these dihydroxybenzenes include resorcinol, hydroquinone, 1,2-dihydroxybenzene and the like. These can be used alone or in admixture of two or more kinds.

[0017] The polymer of the present invention is not necessarily linear and polyhydric phenols can be copolymerized according to the properties of the desired polymer. Examples of such polyhydric phenols include tris(4-hydroxyphenyl)methane, 4,4'-[1,4-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1-methylethyl]phenyl]ethylene]bisphenol, 2,3,4,4'-tetrahydroxybenzophenone, 4-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)methyl-2-methoxyphenol, tris(3-methyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methane, 4-bis(3-methyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methyl-2-methoxyphenol, 4-bis(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methyl-2-methoxyphenol, 1,1,1-tris(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethane, 1,1,1-tris(3-methyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)ethane, 1,1,1-tris(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)ethane, tris(3-methyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methane, tris(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methane, 2,6-bis[(2-hydroxy-5-methylphenyl)methyl]-4-methylphenol, 4-bis(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methyl-1,2-dihydroxybenzene, 2-bis(2-methyl-4-hydroxy-5-cyclohexylphenyl)methyl-phenol, 4-bis(2-methyl-4-hydroxy-5-cyclohexylphenyl)methyl-1,2-dihydroxybenzene, 4-methylphenyl-1,2,3-trihydroxybenzene, 4-[(4-hydroxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3-trihydroxybenzene, 4-[1-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1-methylethyl]-1,3-dihydroxybenzene, 4-[(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3-trihydroxybenzene, 1,4-bis[1-bis(3,4-dihydroxyphenyl)-1-methyl-ethyl]benzene, 1,4-bis[1-bis(2,3,4-trihydroxyphenyl)-1-methyl-ethyl]benzene, 2,4-bis[(4-hydroxyphenyl)methyl]-1,3-dihydroxybenzene, 2-bis(3-methyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methylphenol, 4-bis(3-methyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methylphenol, 2-bis(2-methyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methylphenol, 4-bis(3-methyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methyl-1,2-dihydroxybenzene, 4-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)methyl-2-ethoxyphenol, 2-bis(2,3-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methylphenol, 4-bis(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methylphenol, 3-bis(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methylphenol, 2-bis(2-hydroxy-3,6-dimethylphenyl)methylphenol, 4-bis(2-hydroxy-

3,6-dimethylphenyl)methyl]phenol, 4-[bis(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methyl]-2-methoxyphenol, 3,6-bis(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2-dihydroxybenzene, 4,6-bis(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2,3-trihydroxybenzene, 2-bis(2,3,6-trimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methyl]phenol, 2-bis(2,3,5-trimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methyl]phenol, 3-bis(2,3,5-trimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methyl]phenol, 4-bis(2,3,5-trimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methyl]phenol, 4-bis(2,3,5-trimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methyl]-1,2-dihydroxybenzene, 3-bis(2-methyl-4-hydroxy-5-cyclohexylphenyl)methyl]phenol, 4-bis(2-methyl-4-hydroxy-5-cyclohexylphenyl)methyl]phenol, 4-bis(2-methyl-4-hydroxy-5-cyclohexylphenyl)methyl]-2-methoxyphenol, 2,4,6-tris(4-hydroxyphenylmethyl)-1,3-dihydroxybenzene, 1,1,2,2-tetra(3-methyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)ethane, 1,1,2,2-tetra(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)ethane, 1,4-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)methyl]benzene, 1,4-di[bis(3-methyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methyl]benzene, 1,4-di[bis(3,5-dimethyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)methyl]benzene, 4-[1,1-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]aniline, (2,4-dihydroxyphenyl)(4-hydroxyphenyl)ketone, 2-bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)methyl]phenol, 1,3,3-tri(4-hydroxyphenyl)butane and the like. These can be used alone or in admixture of two or more kinds.

[0018] A general method of preparing a polymer of the present invention includes a solution polymerization process in which an acid halide and a dihydric phenol are reacted in an organic solvent (A.Conix, Ind. Eng. Chem. 51 147 (1959), Japanese Examined Patent No. Sho 37-5599), a molten polymerization process in which an acid halide and a dihydric phenol are heated in the presence of a catalyst such as magnesium chloride, another molten polymerization process in which a divalent acid and a dihydric phenol are heated in the presence of diallyl carbonate (Japanese Examined Patent No. Sho 38-26299), and an interfacial polymerization process in which a divalent acid halide dissolved in an organic solvent that is not compatible with water is mixed with a dihydric phenol dissolved in an alkali aqueous solution (W.M. Eareckson, J.Poly. Sci. XL 399 (1959) Japanese Examined Patent Application publication No. Sho 40-1959) and the like, but the solution polymerization process is employed particularly advantageously. In one exemplary solution polymerization process, a phosphonic acid derivative which is a precursor molecule of a phosphonic acid residue, and a dihydric phenol are mixed and reacted in the presence of a base such as triethyl amine, then a precursor molecule of the carbonate residue such as phosgene or triphosgene is added and subjected to condensation polymerization to produce a resin of the present invention. In this process, a polymer of a higher molecular weight can be produced by adding triphosgene after the addition of the phosphonic acid derivative, and not by adding the phosphonic acid derivative and the triphosgene simultaneously for the reaction. Examples of a phosphonic acid derivative and a carbonate derivative are not particularly limited and halides, acid anhydrides and esters thereof may be employed.

[0019] The molecular weight of the polymer of the present invention can be controlled by adding a monofunctional substance during the polymerization process. Examples of the monofunctional substance, which is employed herein as a molecular weight controlling agent, include monohydric phenols such as phenol, cresol, and p-tert-butylphenol, and monovalent acid chlorides such as benzoic acid chloride, methanesulfonyl chloride, and phenyl chloroformate.

[0020] Various anti-oxidizing agents such as hindered phenol type, hindered amine type, thioether type and phosphorus type can be added to the polymer of the present invention, in an amount that does not mar the characteristics of the polymer of the present invention.

[0021] The polymer of the present invention has high solubility in an organic solvent such as methylene chloride, chloroform, 1,1,2,2-tetrachloroethane, 1,2-dichloroethane, tetrahydrofuran, 1,4-dioxane, toluene, xylene, γ -butyrolactone, benzyl alcohol, isophorone, chlorobenzene, dichlorobenzene, and hexafluoroisopropanol. The polymer of the present invention is amorphous, and the amorphism of the polymer can be confirmed by the presence of a melting point which can be determined by a known method such as differential scanning calorimetry (DSC) or kinetic viscoelasticity measurement and the like.

EXAMPLES

[0022] The exemplary embodiments of the present invention will be described with the following examples, but it is to be understood that the present invention is not limited by them.

EXAMPLE 1

[0023] Methylbenzylidene bisphenol (40 mmol) and triethyl amine (88 mmol) were mixed in 1,2-dichloroethane (100 ml) under a nitrogen atmosphere, stirred and cooled on ice. To this solution, phenyl phosphonic acid dichloride (30 mmol) dissolved in 1,2-dichloroethane (45 ml) was added dropwise over 60 minutes, and the solution was stirred at room temperature for 120 minutes after the completion of the addition. Then a 1,2-dichloroethane solution of triphosgene (5.83 ml, 0.571 mol/l) was added thereto dropwise over 30 minutes and the solution was mixed for 120 minutes after the completion of the addition and stirred in an oil bath at 70°C for 120 minutes, then stirred at a room temperature for 12 hours. The reactant mixture was added to 2000 ml of hexane and the polymer was reprecipitated and filtered out then washed with (1) 2000 ml of ethanol, (2) 2000 ml of water/ethanol in a 1/1 mixed solution, and (3) 2000 ml of water in this order, then dried to produce a desired resin powder in a 89% yield.

[0024] The obtained resin powder was molded and evaluated by the following method. For press molding, the obtained resin powder was put into a mold which was heated to 250°C, a temperature higher than the glass transition point of the resin. As for the mold, one with which a circular plate having a diameter of 30 mm can be molded was employed. After the mold was closed, the resin was placed under a pressure of 2 tons and cooled. By splitting the mold, a disc shaped resin plate having a diameter of 30 mm, and a thickness of 3 mm was obtained. For a resin having a lower melt viscosity, the resin can be sealed in a test tube and subjected to melt molding. In this case, 3 g of the obtained resin powder was put into a test tube having an outer diameter of 24 mm and the air was evacuated therefrom and the resin in the test tube under vacuum was heated to 280°C by a heater. After confirming the resin had melted, the heater was turned off and the test tube was cooled. After the test tube was cooled, the hardening of the resin was confirmed and the lump resin was taken out by breaking only the test tube.

[0025] The obtained resin molded sample was sandpapered and buffed. Two major surfaces were planished until they showed a mirror finish.

[0026] The planished resin sample was evaluated with a refractometer (KPR-2 produced by Kalnew Kogaku Kogyo K.K.) and the d-line (wavelength: 587.6 nm) refractive index (nd) was measured, and the Abbe number was obtained according to equation (6).

[0027] The dynamic characteristics of the obtained resin were evaluated by a bending test which was carried out with Tensilon (Model RTM-100) produced by Orientec Co. on a molded plate having a width of 10 mm, a length of 25 mm, and a thickness of 3 mm under the condition that the distance between supporting points was 22 mm, and the bending speed was 1.5 mm/min. Toughness (bending stress x breaking displacement), which is an index showing fragility, was employed as the evaluation parameter.

EXAMPLE 2

[0028] Methylbenzylidene bisphenol (40 mmol), pentaerythrityl-tetrakis[3-(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propionate] (0.15 g) and triethylamine (88 mmol) were mixed in 1,2-dichloroethane (100 ml) under a nitrogen atmosphere, stirred and cooled on ice. To this solution, phenylthio phosphonic acid dichloride (30 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (45 ml) was added dropwise over 60 minutes, the solution was stirred at room temperature for 120 minutes after the completion of the addition. Then a 1,2-dichloroethane solution of triphosgene (5.83 ml, 0.571 mol/l) was added thereto dropwise over 30 minutes, then stirred for 120 minutes after the completion of the addition.

[0029] The solution was then stirred in an oil bath at 70°C for 120 minutes, then stirred at room temperature for 12 hours. The reactant mixture was added to 2000 ml of hexane and the polymer was reprecipitated and filtered out then washed with (1) 2000 ml of ethanol, (2) 2000 ml of water/ethanol in a 1/1 mixed solution, and (3) 2000 ml of water, in this order, then dried to give a desired resin powder at a 90% yield. The resin was molded in a process analogous to that of Example 1 and evaluated.

EXAMPLE 3

[0030] 1,1-Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)cyclohexane (40 mmol) and triethylamine (88 mmol) were mixed in 1,2-dichloroethane (100 ml) under a nitrogen atmosphere, stirred and cooled on ice. To this solution, phenyl phosphonic acid dichloride (30 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (45 ml) was added dropwise over 60 minutes, and the solution was stirred at room temperature for 120 minutes after the completion of the addition. Then a 1,2-dichloroethane solution of triphosgene (5.83 ml, 0.571 mol/l) was added thereto dropwise over 30 minutes, and the solution was stirred for 120 minutes after the completion of the addition.

[0031] The solution was then stirred in an oil bath at 70°C for 120 minutes, then stirred at room temperature for 12 hours. The reactant mixture was added to 2000 ml of hexane and the polymer was reprecipitated and filtered out then washed with (1) 2000 ml of ethanol, (2) 2000 ml of water/ethanol in a 1/1 mixed solution, and (3) 2000 ml of water in this order, then dried to give a desired resin powder at a 91% yield. The resin was molded in a process analogous to that of Example 1 and evaluated.

EXAMPLE 4

[0032] 1,1-Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)cyclohexane (40 mmol), pentaerythrityl-tetrakis[3-(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propionate] (0.15 g) and triethylamine (88 mmol) were mixed in 1,2-dichloroethane (100 ml) under a nitrogen atmosphere, stirred and cooled on ice. To this solution, phenylthio phosphonic acid dichloride (30 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (45 ml) was added dropwise over 60 minutes, and the solution was stirred at room temperature for 120 minutes after the completion of the addition. Then a 1,2-dichloroethane solution of triphosgene (5.83 ml, 0.571 mol/l) was added thereto dropwise over 30 minutes, then stirred for 120 minutes after the completion of the addition.

[0033] The solution was then stirred in an oil bath at 70°C for 120 minutes, then stirred at room temperature for 12

hours. The reactant mixture was added to 2000 ml of hexane and the polymer was reprecipitated and filtered out then washed with (1) 2000 ml of ethanol, (2) 2000 ml of water/ethanol in a 1/1 mixed solution, and (3) 2000 ml of water, in this order, then dried to give a desired resin powder at a 92% yield. The resin was molded in a process analogous to that of Example 1 and evaluated.

EXAMPLE 5

[0034] 1,1-Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)cyclohexane (32 mmol), α,α -bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,4-diisopropylbenzene (8 mmol), and triethylamine (88 mmol) were mixed in 1,2-dichloroethane (100 ml) under a nitrogen atmosphere, stirred and cooled on ice. To this solution, phenyl phosphonic acid dichloride (32 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (45 ml) was added dropwise over 60 minutes, the solution was stirred at room temperature for 120 minutes after the completion of the addition. Then a 1,2-dichloroethane solution of triphosgene (4.66 ml, 0.571 mol/l) was added thereto dropwise over 30 minutes, then stirred for 120 minutes after the completion of the addition.

[0035] The solution was then stirred in an oil bath at 70°C for 120 minutes, then stirred at room temperature for 12 hours. The reactant mixture was added to 2000 ml of hexane and the polymer was reprecipitated and filtered out then washed with (1) 2000 ml of ethanol, (2) 2000 ml of water/ethanol in a 1/1 mixed solution, and (3) 2000 ml of water in this order, then dried to give a desired resin powder at a 88% yield. The resin was molded in a process analogous to that of Example 1 and evaluated.

EXAMPLE 6

[0036] 1,1-Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)cyclohexane (36 mmol), α,α -bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,4-diisopropylbenzene (4 mmol), pentaerythrityl-tetrakis[3-(3,5-di-*t*-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propionate](0.15 g) and triethylamine (88 mmol) were mixed in 1,2-dichloroethane (100 ml) under a nitrogen atmosphere, stirred and cooled on ice. To this solution, phenyl phosphonic acid dichloride (30 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (45 ml) was added dropwise over 60 minutes, the solution was stirred at room temperature for 120 minutes after the completion of the addition. Then a 1,2-dichloroethane solution of triphosgene (5.83 ml, 0.571 mol/l) was added thereto dropwise over 30 minutes, then stirred for 120 minutes after the completion of the addition.

[0037] The solution was then stirred in an oil bath at 70°C for 120 minutes, then stirred at room temperature for 12 hours. The reactant mixture was added to 2000 ml of hexane and the polymer was reprecipitated and filtered out then washed with (1) 2000 ml of ethanol, (2) 2000 ml of water/ethanol in a 1/1 mixed solution, and (3) 2000 ml of water, in this order, then dried to give a desired resin powder at a 90% yield. The resin was molded in a process analogous to that of Example 1 and evaluated.

EXAMPLE 7

[0038] 1,1-Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)cyclohexane (40 mmol) and triethylamine (88 mmol) were mixed in 1,2-dichloroethane (100 ml) under nitrogen atmosphere, stirred and cooled on ice. To this solution, 1,2-dichloroethane solution of triphosgene (1.75 ml, 0.571 mol/l) was added dropwise. Then phenylthio phosphonic acid dichloride (29.6 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (45 ml) was added dropwise over 60 minutes, then benzenephosphonous dichloride (0.4 mmol) in 1,2-dichloroethane (15 ml) was added dropwise, and the solution was stirred at room temperature for 120 minutes after the completion of the addition. Then a 1,2-dichloroethane solution of triphosgene (4.08 ml, 0.571 mol/l) was added thereto dropwise over 30 minutes, then stirred for 120 minutes after the completion of the addition. The reactant mixture was added to 2000 ml of hexane and the polymer was reprecipitated and filtered out then washed with (1) 2000 ml of ethanol, (2) 2000 ml of water/ethanol in a 1/1 mixed solution, and (3) 2000 ml of water in this order, then dried to give a desired resin powder at a 94% yield. The resin was molded in a process analogous to that of Example 1 and evaluated.

EXAMPLE 8

[0039] 1,1-Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)cyclohexane (36 mmol), α,α -bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,4-diisopropylbenzene (4 mmol), pentaerythrityl-tetrakis[3-(3,5-di-*t*-butyl-4-hydroxyphenyl)propionate](0.15 g) and triethylamine (88 mmol) were mixed in 1,2-dichloroethane (100 ml) under a nitrogen atmosphere, stirred and cooled on ice. To this solution, phenylthio phosphonic acid dichloride (27 mmol) and benzenephosphonous dichloride (3 mmol) dissolved in 1,2-dichloroethane (45 ml) were added dropwise over 60 minutes, and the solution was stirred at room temperature for 120 minutes after the completion of the addition. Then a 1,2-dichloroethane solution of triphosgene (5.83 ml, 0.571 mol/l) was added thereto dropwise and stirred for 120 minutes after the completion of the addition.

[0040] The solution was then stirred in an oil bath at 70°C for 120 minutes, then stirred at room temperature for 12 hours. The reactant mixture was added to 2000 ml of hexane and the polymer was reprecipitated and filtered out then

washed with (1) 2000 ml of ethanol, (2) 2000 ml of water/ethanol in a 1/1 mixed solution, and (3) 2000 ml of water, in this order, then dried to give a desired resin powder at a 94% yield. The resin was molded in a process analogous to that of Example 1 and evaluated.

5 EXAMPLE 9

[0041] 1,1-Bis(4-hydroxyphenyl)cyclododecane (40 mmol) and triethylamine (88 mmol) were mixed in 1,2-dichloroethane (100 ml) under a nitrogen atmosphere, stirred and cooled on ice. To this solution, phenyl phosphonic acid dichloride (30 mmol) dissolved in 1,2-dichloroethane (45 ml) was added dropwise over 60 minutes, and the solution
10 was stirred at room temperature for 120 minutes after the completion of the addition. Then a 1,2-dichloroethane solution of triphosgene (5.83 ml, 0.571 mol/l) was added thereto dropwise over 30 minutes, and stirred for 120 minutes after the completion of the addition.

[0042] The solution was then stirred in an oil bath at 70°C for 120 minutes, then stirred at room temperature for 12 hours. The reactant mixture was added to 2000 ml of hexane and the polymer was reprecipitated and filtered out then
15 was washed with (1) 2000 ml of ethanol, (2) 2000 ml of water/ethanol in a 1/1 mixed solution, and (3) 2000 ml of water, in this order, then dried to give a desired resin powder at a 88% yield. The resin was molded in a process analogous to that of Example 1 and evaluated.

20 EXAMPLE 10

[0043] Methylbenzylidene bisphenol A (20 mmol) and triethylamine (40 mmol) were mixed in 1,2-dichloroethane (50 ml) under a nitrogen atmosphere, stirred and cooled on ice. To this solution, phenylthio phosphonic acid dichloride (20 mmol) dissolved in 1,2-dichloroethane (60 ml) was added dropwise over 35 minutes, and the solution was stirred at room temperature for 90 minutes after the completion of the addition. Then it was treated in a process analogous to
25 that of Example 1 (the resulting yield was 95 %) then molded in a similar process and evaluated.

EXAMPLE 11

[0044] Bisphenol A (20 mmol) and triethylamine (40 mmol) were mixed in 1,2-dichloroethane (50 ml) under nitrogen atmosphere, stirred and cooled on ice. To this solution, phenylthio phosphonic acid dichloride (20 mmol) dissolved in 1,2-dichloroethane (60 ml) was added dropwise over 35 minutes, the solution was stirred at room temperature for 90 minutes after completion of the addition. Then it was treated in a process analogous to that of Example 1 (the resulting yield was 92 %) then molded in the similar process and evaluated.
30

35 EXAMPLE 12

[0045] The resin obtained in Example 10 and a commercially available polycarbonate, "TARFLON A 2200" (manufactured by Idemitsu Petrochemical Co., Ltd.), were mixed by solution mixing (in 1,2-dichloroethane solution at a concentration of 0.5 mol/l) at 1:1 (in terms of the repeating units) by mol, and treated in a process analogous to that of
40 Example 1 and molded in a similar process and evaluated.

EXAMPLE 13

[0046] The resin obtained in Example 11 and a commercially available polycarbonate, "TARFLON A 2200" (manufactured by Idemitsu Petrochemical Co., Ltd.), were mixed by solution mixing (in 1,2-dichloroethane solution at a concentration of 0.5 mol/l) at 1:1 (in terms of the repeating units) by mol, and treated in a process analogous to that of
45 Example 1 and molded in a similar process and evaluated.

50 EXAMPLE 14

[0047] The resin obtained in Example 7 was fed into a Sumitomo Nestal Promat 40/25 Injection Molding Machine, manufactured by Sumitomo Heavy Industries, Ltd., in which it was molded into 1/8 inch flammability test pieces at a cylinder temperature of 250°C, and at a mold temperature of 100°C. The test pieces subjected to a vertical combustion test in accordance with UL 94 standard did not fire at all, and the flame retardant resistance corresponded to V-0.
55

EXAMPLE 15

[0048] The resin obtained in Example 7 (10 parts by weight) and a separately polymerized ABS resin (acrylonitrile:

styrene in a 7:3, rubber content of 10 %) (100 parts by weight) were subjected to melt-kneading in a double-screw extruder (diameter of 30 mm, L/D=45) at 250°C and pelletized. After having been dried in hot air, those pellets were fed into a Sumitomo Nestal Promat 40/25 Injection Molding Machine, manufactured by Sumitomo Heavy Industries, Ltd., in which they were molded into 1/8 inch flammability test pieces at a cylinder temperature of 250°C, and at a mold temperature of 70°C. The test pieces subjected to a vertical combustion test in accordance with UL 94 standard showed a flame retardant resistance corresponding to level V-2.

EXAMPLE 16

[0049] Five kilograms of the resin described in Example 7 was synthesized and a film having a width of 200 mm and a thickness of 200 µm was formed by a solution casting method (1,2-dichloroethane solution). The film was stretched 1.2 times at a stretching temperature of 135°C and a stretching speed of 180 mm/min. When the retardation of the film obtained under the above-mentioned conditions at a wavelength of 550 nm was taken as 1, the film showed a retardation at a wavelength of 450 nm of 1.100, and that at a wavelength of 650 nm of 0.942.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 1

[0050] A commercially available polycarbonate ("TARFLON A 2200", produced by Idemitsu Petrochemical Co., Ltd.) was molded according to a process analogous to that of Example 1 and evaluated.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 2

[0051] A commercially available polycarbonate (methyl methacrylate (polymer), produced by Tokyo Kasei Kogyo Co., Ltd.) was molded according to a process analogous to that of Example 1 and evaluated.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 3

[0052] A commercially available polyether sulfone was molded according to a process analogous to that of Example 1 and evaluated.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 4

[0053] Bisphenol A (20 mmol) and triethylamine (40 mmol) were mixed in 1,2-dichloroethane (50 ml) under a nitrogen atmosphere, stirred and cooled on ice. To this solution, phenyl phosphonic acid dichloride (20 mmol) dissolved in 1,2-dichloroethane (60 ml) was added dropwise over 35 minutes, and the solution was stirred at room temperature for 90 minutes after completion of the addition. Then it was treated in a process analogous to that of Example 1 (the resulting yield was 85 %) then molded in the similar process and evaluated.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 5

[0054] The resin obtained in Comparative Example 4 and a commercially available polycarbonate, "TARFLON A 2200" (manufactured by Idemitsu Petrochemical Co., Ltd.), were mixed by solution mixing (in 1,2-dichloroethane solution at a concentration of 0.5 mol/l) at 1:1 (in terms of the repeating units) by mol, and treated in a process analogous to that of Example 1 and molded in a similar process and evaluated.

COMPARATIVE EXAMPLE 6

[0055] A film having a width of 200 mm, and a thickness of 200 µm was formed by a solution casting method (1,2-dichloroethane solution) from a commercially available polycarbonate "TARFLON A 2200" (manufactured by Idemitsu Petrochemical Co., Ltd.). The film was stretched 1.2 times at a stretching temperature of 135°C and a stretching speed of 180 mm/min.

When the retardation of the film obtained under the above-mentioned conditions at a wavelength of 550 nm was taken as 1, the film showed the retardation at a wavelength of 450 nm of 1.092, and that at a wavelength of 650 nm of 0.966. The evaluation results of the resins produced according to the processes shown in Examples 1 - 13 and Comparative Examples 1 - 5 are given in Table 1.

Table 1

	Refractive index	Abbe number	Toughness
Example 1	1.619	28.0	30
Example 2	1.639	26.8	28
Example 3	1.605	30.8	23
Example 4	1.625	29.1	26
Example 5	1.610	30.3	20
Example 6	1.623	28.9	19
Example 7	1.622	29.2	27
Example 8	1.623	28.5	21
Example 9	1.580	33.1	24
Example 10	1.646	26.1	2
Example 11	1.633	27.5	3
Example 12	1.615	28.3	19
Example 13	1.608	29.0	17
Comparative Example 1	1.583	30.5	30
Comparative Example 2	1.492	56.0	20
Comparative Example 3	1.634	23.3	31
Comparative Example 4	1.605	29.6	1
Comparative Example 5	1.594	30.0	15

[0056] Comparative Examples show that the conventional representative thermoplastic resins are far from satisfactory for optical applications such as a lens, since those having high refractive indices are of high dispersion and those of low dispersion have low refractive indices. Although the resins of Examples 10 and 11 were fragile, they showed such high refractive indices and high Abbe numbers as to allow compounding with existing polycarbonates (it is shown that the optical characteristics of the compounded resins are the averaged values of those of the resins compounded). On the other hand, the resin of Comparative Example 4 showed relatively good optical characteristics; however, the mechanical characteristics thereof were insufficient (very fragile) and compounding with polycarbonate improved the mechanical characteristics, and the refractive index was decreased to below 1.6. On the contrary, the resins according to the present invention have useful optical characteristics such as high refractive indices and low dispersion as well as good mechanical characteristics. It is clear from Examples 14 and 15 that the resins of the present invention also have excellent flame retardant resistance.

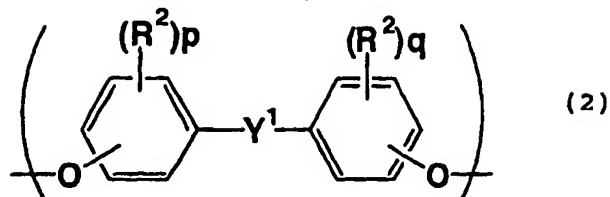
[0057] From Example 16 and Comparative Example 6, it is shown that the optical anisotropic product obtained from the resin of the present invention has such wavelength dispersion that the relation between the wavelength and the retardation is more linear than that of the polycarbonate, and thereby the resin of the present invention is shown to be better as a material for an optical retardation film than the conventional polycarbonate.

Industrial Applicability

[0058] According to the present invention, resins having high refractive indices and low optical dispersion are provided; which are useful in various applications including a lens and an optical film and the like.

Claims

1. A resin composition comprising a carbonate residue, a phosphonic acid residue represented by the following structural formula (1), and a dihydric phenol residue represented by the following structural formula (2), wherein the mol fractions of the phosphonic acid residue and the carbonate residue satisfy equation (3).

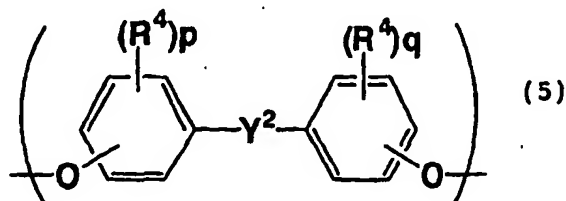


[In structural formula (1), R¹ represents an organic group, X¹ represents oxygen, sulfur or selenium, and the resin composition may contain two or more different phosphonic acid residues having different R¹ or X¹. In the structural formula (2), R² is independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydrocarbyl group and a nitro group, and p and q are integers such that p+q=0 to 8, and the hydrocarbyl group is selected from the group consisting of an aliphatic group having 1 - 20 carbon atoms, and an aromatic group. Y¹ is selected from the group consisting of a single bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, an alkylene group, an alkylidene group, a cycloalkylene group, a cycloalkylidene group, a halo-substituted alkylene group, a halo-substituted alkylidene group, a phenylalkylidene group, a carbonyl group, a sulfone group, an aliphatic phosphine oxide group, an aromatic phosphine oxide group, an alkylsilane group, a dialkylsilane group, and a fluorene group. The resin composition may contain two or more different dihydric phenol residues having different R² or Y¹.]

$$1 > (a) / \{(a) + (b)\} \geq 0.5 \quad (3)$$

[In equation (3), (a) represents the number of moles of the phosphonic acid residues, and (b) represents the number of moles of the carbonate residues.]

2. A resin composition which comprises a phosphonic acid residue represented by the following structural formula (4), and a dihydric phenol residue represented by the following structural formula (5).



[In structural formula (4), R³ represents an organic group, X² represents sulfur or selenium, and the resin composition may contain two or more different phosphonic acid residues having different R³ or X². In the structural formula (5), R⁴ is independently selected from the group consisting of a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydrocarbyl group and a nitro group, and p and q are integers such that p+q=0 to 8, and the hydrocarbyl group is selected

from the group consisting of an aliphatic group having 1 - 20 carbon atoms, and an aromatic group. Y2 is selected from the group consisting of a single bond, an oxygen atom, a sulfur atom, an alkylene group, an alkylidene group, a cycloalkylene group, a cycloalkylidene group, a halo-substituted alkylene group, a halo-substituted alkylidene group, a phenylalkylidene group, a carbonyl group, a sulfone group, an aliphatic phosphineoxide group, an aromatic phosphineoxide group, an alkylsilane group, a dialkylsilane group, and a fluorene group. The resin composition may contain two or more different dihydric phenol residues having different R4 or Y2.]

3. A resin composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a part of the phosphonic acid residue is replaced with a phosphonite residue and the replacement ratio thereof is up to 50 %.
4. A resin composition according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the Abbe number is not less than 31.
5. A resin composition according to claim 1 or 2, having a d-line refractive index of not less than 1.60 and an Abbe number of not less than 26.
6. A resin composition according to claim 1 or 2, having a d-line refractive index of not less than 1.62.
7. A molded product comprising a resin composition according to claim 1 or 2.
8. A film comprising a resin composition according to claim 1 or 2.
9. An optical retardation film comprising a film according to claim 8 as a structural material.
10. An optical lens comprising a molded product according to claim 7.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP01/07735

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER Int.Cl ⁷ C08G79/02, C08G64/08, C08J5/00, G02B1/04, G02B5/30		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) Int.Cl ⁷ C08G79/0-79/02, C08G64/04-64/08, C08J5/00, G02B1/04, G02B5/30		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 4322520 A (Bayer Aktiengesellschaft), 30 May, 1982 (30.05.82), Claims; column 3, lines 27 to 31; column 6, lines 31 to 40; column 6, lines 49 to 54; working examples & JP 56-5823 A Claims; page 4, upper left column; page 6, lower right column; page 7, upper left column; working examples & EP 21216 A	1,3-8
X	US 4719279 A (Bayer Aktiengesellschaft), 12 January, 1988 (12.01.88), Claims; column 2, lines 18 to 37; column 5, lines 10 to 14; working examples & JP 61-285225 A Claims; page 3, upper right column to lower left column; page 6, upper left column; working examples & EP 208105 A	1,4-7
X	JP 61-238826 A (Japan Synthetic Rubber Co., Ltd.), 24 October, 1986 (24.10.86), Claims; page 5, lower right column; working examples (Family: none)	2,4-7
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents: "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "B" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art "Z" document member of the same patent family		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 06 December, 2001 (06.12.01)		Date of mailing of the international search report 18 December, 2001 (18.12.01)
Name and mailing address of the ISA/ Japanese Patent Office		Authorized officer
Facsimile No.		Telephone No.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP01/07735

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 3378523 A (Eastman Kodak Company), 16 April, 1968 (16.04.68), Claims; column 1, lines 30 to 44; working examples (Family: none)	1, 3-6, 8
X	GB 1025422 A (Gevaert Photo Prod. N.V.), 06 April, 1966 (06.04.66), Claims; page 4, lines 26 to 29; working examples (Family: none)	1, 4-8

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